

***Maury and Elaine Lawrence***

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September 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Room 1-23  
12420 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Docket number: 98P-0151/CP1 and Help Ease the Suffering of Downed Animals

Dear FDA,

We were appaled to read about this in our local newspaper, and hope you will do something about it:

"Due to horrendous conditions on factory farms, many animals become too weak and sick to stand up or move under their own strength. These "downed" animals are shackled, hoisted and dragged by the leg or neck, or pushed by tractors and forklifts to the slaughterhouse. The helpless animals suffer broken bones, torn tendons and lacerations from this inhumane handling. Studies reveal that most downed animals are fully conscious during the process. All this so that companies can make a few extra dollars.

Recent research suggests that downed animals may harbor a variant of "mad cow" disease, and allowing them to enter the nation's food supply may jeopardize human health.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act prohibits the interstate commerce of "adulterated," or "diseased," animals. Current USDA regulations define downed animals as "diseased." Thus, the existing regulatory framework requires they be eliminated from interstate commerce. Yet, downed animals continue to be marketed, causing them immeasurable suffering.

Please inform consumers and change policy so that is will be required to do explicit labeling of downed animals as adulterated, thus prohibiting their transport and slaughter. Laws should help protect animals AND consumers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine and Maury Lawrence

Cc USA TODAY

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